

# Equal Rights

VOL. XVII, No. 41  
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 14, 1931



## Mrs. Wiley Lays a Laurel Wreath Before the Bust of Robert Dale Owen on the State House Grounds in Indianapolis

The monument was erected to Owen's memory by the women of Indiana to commemorate his pioneer efforts in behalf of Equal Rights. Left to right: Mrs. Frank Owen Fitton, niece of Robert Dale Owen; Mrs. Hereford Dugan, legislative chairman of Woman's Party for Indiana; Mabel Van Dyke, chairman of Young Women's Council of Woman's Party; Mrs. Robert Kirby Whyte, descendant of Owen; Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, chairman of National Woman's Party; Mrs. Frederick G. Balz, chairman of Seventh District of General Federation of Women's Clubs; Julia Landers, director, Department of Public Safety, Marion County, Indiana; Muna Lee, director of National Activities of Woman's Party; Mrs. D. Fenton Thompson, executive secretary of Indiana Branch, Woman's Party.

# Equal Rights



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## MEMBERSHIP OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Annual Dues         | \$10.00    |
| Associate Members   | \$1.00     |
| Subscribing Members | \$3.00     |
| Founders            | \$100.00   |
| Life Members        | \$1,000.00 |
| Endowers            | \$5,000.00 |
| Sustainers          | \$5,000.00 |

## OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

**THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT**  
"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]  
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]

Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929,  
by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.

Introduced in the House April 23, 1929,  
by REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK W. MAGRADY,  
Pennsylvania.

## Use This Opportunity

ONE of the difficulties that always besets local organizations is their comparative isolation. A few dozen, or a few hundred, men or women join together to carry out a specific program. They separate themselves in their organization from the rest of the community, and their numbers, therefore, in comparison with the total population of their city and State, are exceedingly small. Their contacts also are limited with the result that their interests tend to diminish rather than to increase with the flight of time.

To offset this difficulty State Federations and National Federations of like-minded groups have been and are constantly in process of formation. The American Medical Association, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the numerous national and international scientific societies, the American Federation of Labor, all are examples of the tendency on the part of isolated organizations to group themselves together in a more universal form.

The functional purpose of this amalgamation is twofold, first, to enlarge the contacts of the local groups, thereby assuring a constant influx of new ideas, and second, to improve the morale of the members.

If people feel that they belong to a nation-wide organization with a large membership and considerable prestige, it heightens their own sense of importance and gives dignity to whatever movement they represent.

Just as complete "isolation" in a prison depletes the personality of the prisoner, so the isolation of the local group drains its vigor.

More especially is this the case in respect to organizations representing radical or advanced ideas. The local groups must either proceed to merge themselves with other local groups into larger and more widespread organizations or shortly perish of inanition. Advanced groups are always, in the nature of things, unpopular, and the average human spirit is not equipped continually to endure unpopularity. In national congresses, in conventions, where only like-minded individuals are apt to foregather, this sense of conflict with the world at large is momentarily forgotten.

In such State-wide, or nation-wide meetings, where public opinion is unanimous or nearly unanimous, the individual member compensates for the sense of inferiority bred by a hostile world. She is at one with the majority, she hears her own ideas ably upheld, she sees signs of power and authority in the numbers surrounding her, with the result that comfort and hope, self-respect and a new determination take the place of ineffectivity and discouragement, and she emerges reinspired to carry on.

The approaching Biennial Convention of the National Woman's Party, to be held in Washington, D. C., on December 5, 6 and 7, offers the leaders of the local organizations in the Woman's Party a magnificent opportunity for improving the morale of their own members. Every woman who attends the convention will return to her local organization with fresh confidence in the importance and practicability of Equal Rights. State officers should therefore make every effort to send as large a delegation as possible to the convention in order to accelerate work in their own States. Members as well as delegates should be urged to attend so that the inspiration flowing from this nation-wide gathering may be diffused among the membership at large.

## Are You Making the Same Mistake?

LETTERS and telephone calls coming in to the office of EQUAL RIGHTS and to National Headquarters indicate that the Equal Rights radio programs over WEAF of the National Broadcasting Company are making a profound impression. Miss Earhart's talk has brought to light a number of prospective aviators who have even gone so far as to ask the cost of planes.

It avails little, however, to tell our office or National Headquarters that the programs are enjoyed. The people to tell about it are the National Broadcasting Company, New York City; that is, if you wish to have the programs continued.

According to authorities on mass education the radio offers the best possible means for reaching the people. This is more particularly true of the women who live in far away districts whom it would be difficult to bring to meetings. The National Woman's Party needs the support of these women to effect the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

From the communications that have reached us it is clear that a great many women who had never heard of the National Woman's Party before are finding a new hope and a great interest in the programs, but it never occurs to them to tell the National Broadcasting Company about it.

Too bad. Are you making the same mistake?

# National Chairman Visits Ohio, Indiana and W. Virginia

**E**LECTION of State officers and passage of four ringing resolutions were the peaks in the Indiana State Conference of the National Woman's Party, but there were many other high points; and the motor trip to the conference of the National Chairman, Director of National Activities, and Chairman of the Young Woman's Council was marked by profitable and interesting contacts on the way. Meetings in Columbus and Dayton reaffirmed the solidarity of women in their increasing demand for equality before the law.

Perhaps the swiftest and clearest way of recounting the story of the trip made by Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, Muna Lee and Mabel Van Dyke is to give a calendar of events.

Leaving Washington on Saturday, October 24, they arrived that evening in Fairmount, West Virginia, where they spent the night. Mrs. Wiley gave an interview to the *West Virginian* on conditions in that State and on the nature and purpose of the Woman's Party. Sunday, October 25, was spent in Wheeling with Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Hoge. The afternoon was given over to conferences with Wheeling Feminists on the necessity of intensifying work for the Equal Rights Amendment. Among these were Florence Hoge, Woman's Party member and ardent worker for suffrage in the old days, Mrs. Robert L. Read, Mrs. Edward Hazlett, Mrs. J. B. Wilson, Mrs. A. W. Paull, former president of the League of Women Voters, and others.

Monday, October 6, the trio from National Headquarters arrived in Columbus, Ohio, and were welcomed in the home of Mary Brandon, where they met Mrs. Valentine Winters, Ohio chairman. Mrs. James Rector presided at a charming tea at the Maramor Restaurant in honor of the visiting officers. Mrs. Winters introduced Mrs. Wiley, who explained the progress of the Woman's Party during the past two years, and the effect of this time of national industrial crisis in demonstrating the necessity of the speedy passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Muna Lee summarized the worldwide campaign for an equal nationality code, Mabel Van Dyke gave a gay and witty definition of Feminism, and showed how many women proclaim themselves not to be Feminists in total ignorance of the fact that they rule their lives by Feminist principles.

Following the tea, Mrs. Winters accompanied Mrs. Wiley and her party to the Executive Mansion. In the absence of Governor White, they conferred with the Misses White, his daughters, discussing with them the imperative importance of the Equal Rights Amendment. Miss

White assured Mrs. Wiley that she reads **EQUAL RIGHTS**, with great interest, every week.

The crowded day drew to a close with a drive to Dayton, and dinner with the family of Mrs. Winters.

Tuesday morning, October 27, Mrs. Wiley was extensively interviewed by reporters from the Dayton papers. She and Miss Lee called upon former Governor Cox, the suffrage Governor of Ohio, who expressed great sympathy with the work of the Woman's Party for equality.

That evening, Mrs. Wiley, Mrs. Winters, Miss Van Dyke, and Miss Lee arrived in Indianapolis and were guests of honor at a dinner party given by Mrs. Hereford Dugan, Legislative Chairman of the Woman's Party for Indiana. Mrs. Ovid Butler Jameson, Indiana State Chairman, welcomed the national visitors most charmingly, graciously ignoring the fact that they had arrived through a driving rain an hour and a half behind schedule. In spite of the delay, the dinner was most animated and delightful.

**T**HE conference program began at 20 minutes past 8 on Wednesday morning, October 28, when Mrs. Wiley spoke to an attentive and attractive audience of young girls at Tudor Hall, showing them how many discriminations against women have not yet been removed from our statute books, in spite of eleven years of suffrage. At 10 o'clock Mrs. Wiley and Mrs. Winters conferred with the president of the Indianapolis Junior League, Mrs. C. H. Bradley, about the international work for Equal Rights. Accompanied by Mrs. Edwin McNally, Junior League Chairman of Occupational Therapy, the group visited the Riley Hospital. At 12 o'clock, Mrs. Wiley was a guest speaker at the Woman's Department Club of Indianapolis, explaining the Equal Rights Amendment to a large luncheon meeting in the beautiful club house. Wednesday evening, Mrs. Wiley was guest of honor at a dinner given by Dr. H. E. Barnard, director of the White House Child Welfare Conference, and Mrs. Barnard. That evening Muna Lee spoke in Spanish on the work of the Woman's Party and of the Inter-American Commission to the Spanish Club of Indianapolis. She answered numerous questions regarding equality as a Pan-American factor from an audience consisting of students and teachers of Spanish and including Colombians, Mexicans, Porto Ricans, and a former Governor of the Oriente Province in Cuba.

Thursday morning, October 30, the Indiana State Branch held its business sessions, with Mrs. Jameson in the chair. In her address of welcome, she spoke of the solidarity of women as the great hope

of our generation. Women, she said, were no longer spoken of as angels and flattered like lunatics, but were taking their part in the march of the mighty brotherhood of mankind.

"Never," she declared energetically, "have women realized the tremendous force which they themselves embody. Women have accepted consideration of their own problems as a side issue. The National Woman's Party has done a great and splendid work in bringing home to women a proper realization of their obligations and their power." Mrs. Jameson told of her grandmother's work for suffrage, and sketched the course of the suffrage campaign in Indiana. "On the day that suffrage was won," she said, "I saw a woman kneeling in the State House, who rose to her feet saying that she had been praying to be worthy of the ballot. But the ballot is nothing until it is properly used. I am indeed proud," she declared in conclusion, "to belong to an organization through which women are learning to appreciate each other."

Following Mrs. Jameson's speech, Julia Landers, a member of both the Woman's Party and the League of Women Voters, and Director of Public Safety for Marion County, pointed out that both major political parties have failed to accord women adequate recognition in public office; and she asserted that the ultimate responsibility for this lies with women themselves, who do not demand their due.

**A**T noon Mrs. Wiley was the principal figure in a beautiful ceremony on the State House grounds in recognition of the services to equality of Robert Dale Owen. His monument there bears the following simple but significant inscription:

ROBERT DALE OWEN

1801

1877

"An appreciation erected by the women of Indiana in recognition of his efforts to offer them educational privileges and Equal Rights. Author, statesman, politician, philanthropist. Write me as one who loved his fellow man."

The ceremony began with the reading of Enda St. Vincent Millay's "Pioneers," by Mabel Van Dyke. Mrs. Frederick G. Balz, Chairman of the Seventh District Federation of Women's Clubs, made a brief address on "High Lights on New Harmony," explaining the interesting social experiment which Owen conducted in that historic town. Mrs. Balz drew a vivid picture of the difficulties of the community, and through her story the sterling quality of the women of New Harmony stood out in noble relief. Miss Landers explained "What Robert Dale Owen did

for the Women of Indiana." She said:

"We like to bring women who are leaders in the work to improve the status of women legally and politically to this shrine erected by the club women of Indiana as a part of the Centennial Celebration of 1916. For Robert Dale Owen was the first champion of the women of this State.

"The Owens came from Glasgow and edited a paper in New York. Then they organized the colony that located at New Harmony, Indiana, drawing there a notable intellectual group. The first women's club in the United States was organized in New Harmony by Frances Wright.

"It shocked the Owens to find that in Indiana women had no legal right to the property given them by their fathers and that often men married in order to acquire their wives' property. The Owens started out to improve the condition of the women of this State by giving them equal opportunities in the schools and laws to protect their property.

"The following are the laws that Robert Dale Owens had passed in Indiana after many a bitter fight: First, women were given the right to own and control their own property during marriage. Second, married women gained the right to their own earnings. Third, the Common Law dower was abolished, and the widow given the right to one-third of her deceased husbands' property. This law was passed in 1838, repealed in 1841, and passed again in 1852. Fourth, a divorce law was enacted giving a woman the right to divorce her husband for habitual drunkenness and cruelty.

"It seems strange that these injustices had been tolerated; and it is not to the credit of the men of that day that Owen had to fight for the laws correcting them. Moreover, men fought Owen and refused to nominate him for Governor because he challenged the men of his party to make good on the Jeffersonian principle of 'equal and exact justice for all—women as well as men.'

"However, today those men are forgotten and the name of Robert Dale Owen shines out in the history of Indiana. Women in his day had little money, but when the third of the foregoing laws was passed by the Legislature, women banded together and gave him a silver pitcher to express their gratitude."

Following the speeches, Mrs. Wiley presented a beautiful laurel wreath to Mrs. Robert Kirby Whyte, a direct descendant of Owen, saying:

"As chairman of the National Woman's Party, an organization to secure Equal Rights for men and women before the law, I take pleasure in laying this wreath before the bust of Robert Dale Owen, a great man who was a pioneer in the struggle to secure equality for women."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Dr. Lillian Sielken, former Indiana State chairman, and Dr. Amelia R. Keller presided over a luncheon in honor of the national delegates. The work of the Woman's Party in the State and throughout the country was the theme of informal discussion at the luncheon. That afternoon at 3 o'clock, Muna Lee read a group of poems from her book, "Sea Change," to the Indiana Poetry Society. From 4 to 7, Mrs. Ovid Butler Jameson, State chairman, gave a tea in honor of Mrs. Wiley and the other State and national officers of the Woman's Party. The guests included Mrs. Thomas R. Marshall, widow of the Vice-President; Mrs. Jerome Kern; Emma May, president of the State Democratic Women's Club; Mrs. Span Waymiere, president of the State Republican Women's Club; and many others of prominence in the city and State.

At the business session of the conference on Friday morning, October 31, the following State officers for Indiana were elected: Mrs. Ovid Butler Jameson, chairman (re-elected); Mrs. Hereford Dugan, legislative chairman (re-elected); Dr. Minerva Blair Pontius, of Evansville, first vice-chairman; Nanette M. Harper, of Mount Vernon, second vice-chairman; Mrs. D. Fenton Thompson, executive secretary; Esther Heidergott, treasurer.

**F**OLLOWING the elections four important resolutions were passed. The first resolution demanded that the manufacturers and employers of Indiana base any readjustment of employment and wages on efficiency and not on sex.

The second called upon the Governor of Indiana to give women their proportional share of appointive State offices. It commended to his attention the inspiring and forward-looking action of the mayors of Indiana, who, at the meeting of their municipal league, unanimously endorsed the Woman's Party's demand that women share public office equally with men. This resolution also called upon the voters of Indiana to support qualified women candidates for elective office in the State and Nation.

The third resolution urged the President of the United States to include in his message to Congress a recommendation that our nationality law in this country be made entirely equal for men and women by the removal of the remaining discriminations against women.

The fourth resolution asked that the National Woman's Party and other women's organizations sponsor an appeal from the decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Court to the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Massachusetts versus Welosky; thereby establishing the right of women to jury service throughout the United States.

All resolutions were passed unanimously.

The Indiana Conference closed with a dinner at the Indianapolis Athletic Club, with Mrs. Jameson presiding. Mrs. D. Fenton Thompson was chairman of the dinner, and Mrs. Martin Hugg, chairman of decorations. A gifted Spanish singer, Inez Sampere, sang a group of Spanish songs in tribute to the action of the Spanish Republic in including equal suffrage in its new constitution. Mrs. Jameson then introduced Mrs. Wiley, National Chairman, as a torchbearer, drawing a parallel with the pioneer women who found their way with flaming pine torches through the dark forests. Judge J. E. Deery, as representative of the Mayor, welcomed Mrs. Wiley to Indianapolis and expressed the happiness of all in greeting her for her own sake and that of Dr. Wiley, so he loved in his native State. Mrs. Wiley spoke fervently and eloquently about the work of the Woman's Party, and cited discriminations against women from the laws of many States. Mrs. Dugan, an Ohioan by birth, introduced Mrs. Valentine Winters, State chairman for Ohio and member of the National Council. Mrs. Winters read the resolutions passed at the morning business session of the Woman's Party and explained their significance, stressing particularly the great importance of an appeal in the case of Genevieve Welosky. Mrs. Winters explained the discriminations which had been removed. She then asked if the dinner meeting would endorse the action of the conference by again passing the resolutions, which was done with unanimous enthusiasm.

Hale McKeene, director of the highly successful Civic Theatre of Indianapolis, introduced Mabel Van Dyke, chairman of the Young Woman's Council. Mr. McKeene called the attention of the audience to the injustice of a no-night-work law for women, and explained how actresses had succeeded in being exempted from it.

"But the injustice is just as great for waitresses!" he declared, expressing his hope that industrial equality might soon become a fact.

Miss Van Dyke contributed a glowing note of youth and challenge in her brief summary of what young women are demanding of their world. Mrs. Jameson then introduced Dr. G. B. Jackson, with the announcement that he would give a "Sentimentalist's View of Suffrage"; but Dr. Jackson, after expressing his belief that women had not done their utmost with the vote, and indulging in pleasant nostalgic reminiscences of days gone by, frankly declared that he could not make his speech as he had planned it. "I had not realized until I heard Mrs. Wiley," he explained, "how many discriminations are written into our law. Of course I cannot uphold them."

Dr. W. E. Jenkins, of the University of Indiana, spoke on the failure of English novelists and dramatists to evidence any true Feminist feeling until the time of George Meredith, whose Victorian women are living and Feminist in spite of their era. Dr. Sielken, former State chairman, introduced Muna Lee, who enumerated the achievements of the Woman's Party during the past two years; agreed with Dr. Jackson that women were not using their vote to their own advantage; and asked for new members. Following the dinner, a number of memberships were taken out. Those joining included Mrs. J. E. Deery; Mrs. H. E. Barnard; Mrs. W. E. Jenkins; Mary Sullivan, sister of the Mayor; Mrs. R. D. Westfall; Mrs. Carl E. Wood; and others.

After the dinner, Mrs. Winters and Miss Van Dyke undertook the long motor trip back to Dayton in order to begin arrangements for the meeting there on Saturday. Saturday morning, November 1, Mrs. Wiley and Miss Lee also drove over. Mrs. Winters was the gracious hostess of her colleagues. Mrs. Wiley found a battery of reporters and photographers awaiting her arrival.

Mary Brandon, founder and devoted Feminist, had come over from Columbus to assist with the arrangements for the dinner at the Engineers Club on Saturday evening which was the climax of the Dayton visit. Mrs. Winters presided, and introduced Mrs. Wiley as one of the significant women of our time. Mrs. Wiley spoke on the constantly increasing cooperation which the Woman's Party was receiving; and showed how its principles are those of the founders of the Republic. She summarized the amendments to the constitution, characterizing each according to its purpose; and showed the urgency for an Equal Rights Amendment which would place women upon a footing

of equality in a world where discriminations are a fatal handicap. The Hon. Roy Fitzgerald, former Ohio Congressman, followed Mrs. Wiley, paying tribute to her splendid presentation of the case for equality.

"I pledge my word to do all I can for the equality of women before the law," he declared. "Equal Rights should have been written into the Constitution from the beginning; it is our duty to see that an amendment establishing Equal Rights is passed."

MISS BRANDON read three resolutions, which were unanimously endorsed by those present at the dinner meeting. The first of these asked that the Woman's Party appeal the Welosky case to the Supreme Court of the United States; the second, that the President be urged to include a recommendation for the removal of all remaining nationality discriminations in his message. The third protested the action of the Norfolk and Western Railway in prohibiting the employment of married women as a grave discrimination against women. Miss Van Dyke spoke on the contribution of youth to the campaign for Equal Rights. Muna Lee told the story of the efforts of the women of the world to obtain an equal world code of nationality; and showed the interlocking relationship as regards these efforts of the National Woman's Party, the Inter-American Commission of Women, and the League of Nations Consultative Committee on Nationality. John M. Moore, of the League of Nations Society, spoke of the importance of the united efforts of women in a common cause throughout the world.

Mr. and Mrs. Winters' guests at the dinner included in addition to the speakers Mr. and Mrs. John Winters; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gephart; Charlotte Conover,

of the League of Women Voters; Mrs. Harry Beckwith, of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; the Rev. Mr. Philip Porter; the Rev. Mr. Edwin Wilson; Joseph Sharts, former candidate for Governor, and Mrs. Sharts; the Mayor of Dayton; Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Dickey; and other representative citizens of Dayton.

Sunday forenoon, November 2, the three travelers from National Headquarters said goodbye to Mrs. Winters, who had been so staunch and valuable a companion throughout the conference, and motored to Columbus, where Dr. and Mrs. James Rector entertained at luncheon in Mrs. Wiley's honor. At half-past two Mrs. Wiley spoke over the radio in Dayton on legal discriminations against women. No sooner had she completed her talk, than the telephone in the radio company's outer office rang, and an eager voice at the other end of the wire said, "My sister and I have just been listening to you speak, and we both wish to join the Party which is improving the status of women!"

Then Mrs. Wiley, Miss Van Dyke and Miss Lee took again to the highway, headed toward home. They spent Sunday night with Mrs. Hoge in Wheeling. Monday they motored to Kingwood, West Virginia, to consult with F. Emma Bishop, State chairman, regarding plans for the State. Mrs. Bishop told them that their trip had already roused public interest to the extent that editors had been calling her by long distance to inquire as to the Woman's Party program in West Virginia. Mrs. Rankin, wife of the Hon. Mr. Rankin of the State Legislature, Alice Fortney, of the Woman's Party, and Margaret Brown of the Kingwood Public Schools, discussed plans for intensified State organization with Mrs. Wiley and her colleagues, who left for Washington Tuesday morning, arriving in the early evening.

## Senator Caraway

THE sudden death of Senator Thaddeus H. Caraway of Arkansas on November 6 took from the Senate one of the staunchest supporters of Equal Rights.

On many occasions, both in and out of the Senate, Senator Caraway has lent all his resources of mind and influence to the cause of Equal Rights. He was a member of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, which considers the Equal Rights Amendment. Last January 4 he participated in the dedication of Alva Belmont House in a ceremony that was broadcast on a nation-wide hook-up, and made a notable and deeply sincere speech on that occasion. After speaking feelingly of the parade of suffragists which

had been broken up by hoodlums on March 4, 1913, he said:

"The thoughtless jeered; the selfish rejoiced; but Americans, real Americans, were made to think what the marchers thought and to be ashamed for those who insulted them."

Continuing with the changes that had been wrought in the intervening eighteen years, outlining the discriminations against women which have been wiped out in that period, and the ceaseless battle of women for equality, he then said:

"But so long as one discrimination, one unjust law remains upon the statute books, they have dedicated themselves to fight for its removal."

Recounting briefly the part Alva Belmont House had played in the his-

tory of the United States, he concluded:

"Likewise from it were fired the last shots in 1814 by those who sought to defend the National Capitol from an invading foe. And from it, we predict, will be fired the last shot to strike down injustice and inequality; so that, as God made them, men and women will once more inherit the earth, free and equal."

The next day a newspaper woman, meeting Senator Caraway in a Capitol corridor, congratulated him on the quality and genuineness of his speech, saying that so often politicians making such speeches merely utter polite, perfunctory banalities. Senator Caraway looked at the newspaper woman and said, "You know I meant all that." Those who knew him well are fully aware that he did.

Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, chairman of the National Council of the National Woman's Party, wired Mrs. Caraway as follows upon hearing of his death at Little Rock following a kidney operation:

"On behalf of the National Woman's Party I wish to express our sympathy and deep sense of loss on the death of your distinguished husband. Women in this

country and the nation as a whole have lost a friend who cannot be replaced."

Alice Paul, who had occasion to know whereof she spoke and who never utters merely polite banalities herself, telegraphed Mrs. Caraway:

"Please accept my deep sympathy in your great loss. The National Woman's Party owes a great debt to Senator Caraway and feels that the whole woman

movement in this country has lost one of its best friends."

Maud Younger, Congressional chairman of the Woman's Party, an old friend of Senator Caraway and his family, also telegraphed Mrs. Caraway from Washington, expressing her personal sorrow and the grief felt by those interested in equality because of the death of the Arkansas statesman.

## Jury Service for Women

THE National Woman's Party upholds the principle of Equal Rights for men and women—equal status in the law and equal opportunities in every pursuit of life. Its first aim is the passing of the constitutional amendment, which reads: "Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction." As applied to jury service, the National Woman's Party declares in its Declaration of Principles that "Women shall no longer be deprived of their right of trial by a jury of their peers, but jury service shall be open to women as to men." The members of this Party are working to have jury service for women established throughout the United States. At present women can serve on juries in only 22 States.

Under the English law providing for trial by jury, which was brought to this country by the Colonists, jurors were required to be free, lawful and of the human race, but Sir William Blackstone, the great English jurist, held that while "human beings" included women, the "female" is, however, excluded from jury service because of the defect of sex.

Today, from attorney-generals and judges in the States where women serve on juries, has come abundant testimony to the effect that women jurors are capable and entirely satisfactory in criminal as well as civil cases; that they are fair and accurate in weighing evidence; that women of ability are willing to serve, and that anticipated difficulties by reason of domestic duties are largely imaginary.

For example, the late Judge Walsh of Philadelphia, in commenting on women jurors in Pennsylvania, said: "I should say that women jurors are very capable and satisfactory, both in the criminal and civil branches. I have found them less inclined to give way to impulses or emotions than many of our male jurors. This condition stands out most prominently in criminal cases. In short, I might say, that if the Nineteenth Amendment does nothing other than give to the court the aid of the women jurors, it will justify its existence as a part of the Constitution."

According to an Assistant Attorney-

Radio speech of Mrs. Stephen Pell of New York, delivered over Station WEAf of the National Broadcasting Company, Tuesday, November 10, at 2.45 P. M., Eastern Standard Time.

General of Minnesota, the only exemptions claimed by women in his State were for good cause, and fewer claims were made by women than by men in proportion. "In a murder case which I recently assisted in prosecuting," he said, "the jury was half and half. The wife of the murderer had a small baby in court, of which much was made. I noticed that the women jurors were affected by the exhibition and that their emotions and sympathies were strongly aroused. At least two were in tears, but a verdict of guilty was promptly returned."

Such statements notwithstanding, State Legislatures year after year refuse to extend this right to women.

WHEN the jury bill was first introduced legislators made all kinds of objections. "Women," they said, "are too sentimental to serve in criminal cases; they haven't enough business sense to serve in civil cases; they cannot leave their homes to serve on juries."

Gradually, as one argument after another against jury service for women was proved to be unsound and silly, it seemed as if legislative leaders had put their heads together and decided upon one reason for excluding women—"The women of our districts do not want to serve," they said.

Women then patiently went about showing them that women are willing to serve. For years all the important women's organizations in the State appeared at legislative hearings to demand the passage of the women jurors bill.

Old women and young women, good-looking women and homely women, women who had served on juries in other States, all traveled to Albany to answer in person every argument made against jury service for women!

There was no opposition from women, but at every hearing one same lone man would rise in opposition, saying that he

"represented a real estate organization; and that women's place was in the home and not on juries." This performance would end the hearing.

When women became voters, politicians were most solicitous about their wishes before election day, but afterward assumed a very different attitude. Hundreds of women have packed the room at committee hearings on the jury bill. Arguments for the bill have been presented annually by women of importance in the business, professional and social worlds. Usually only three or four of the twenty-five members of the joint committee have appeared. They then either listened with expressions of utter boredom or would at times converse together while women speakers might be making a telling point.

Several years ago the subject appeared to be so tiresome to most of the men on the committee that a charming actress and staunch Feminist, Olga Petrova, consented to journey to Albany to try to arouse some interest on the part of the committee. That winter more publicity than ever before went out to every part of the State on the jury service bill because of the attraction of a beautiful woman. Some of the conservative women felt this would be a dire mistake, as it might detract from the seriousness of the occasion. They were more than ever certain of this when the chairman of the committee complained that the National Woman's Party was trying "to put on a song and dance act at the Capitol."

The report was quickly circulated throughout the Capitol that Madame Petrova would appear at the jury hearing. At the hour set she came, dressed in a white broadcloth suit, with turban to match, and a long sable coat. Not a member of the committee, young or old, was missing! They were all in their seats. Moreover, the room was crowded with legislators from other committees, and beside them, almost every man in the Capitol, including the page boys of the Senate. They listened attentively to her eloquent and dramatic plea. "Really now," said Madame Petrova, "the brains in female skulls are little different than those of the male, and there are a number of good reasons why women should serve

on juries. Beside, it will broaden them to gain a knowledge of the work of the courts. Thus a large class of intelligent voters will be made available. It is only fair that there should be on a jury women who understand women. I believe I lost a suit because a major part of the male jury was asleep during testimony important to a woman." But in spite of the beautiful woman's pertinent arguments, the jury bill stayed in committee!

**A**T the legislative hearing last winter fifty or more women's groups appeared to demand that the bill be reported out of committee and allowed to come to a vote in the Legislature. The room was again packed with women, the committee seated at their table, part of the women seated before them, eager, alert. Those were seated who were so fortunate as to get a chair, as even standing room was at a premium. For this matter was close to the women's hearts. A great principle was involved. Then, for the first time in eleven years, open opposition came from many of the bar associations of the State. Men representing these groups argued: "The majority of women lack the intelligence for jury service. They have not had enough business experience. It is a man's job to try lawsuits. No trial lawyer wants women jurors. No man can understand a woman's reasoning or can present facts to her that she will understand." In contradiction, one man, addressing the women, said: "No man would want women of your intelligence on a jury. A lawyer wants no intelligence to equal his own concerning facts."

By this time the women were aroused. Several at a time would have willingly refuted these arguments. "We do not agree with this at all," said one woman after another. "The majority of women have just as much intelligence as the majority of men. A jury is not supposed to bring technical knowledge to a case, but is to represent the judgment of a community. Many, many suits involve women only, or depend upon the testimony of women. There are many women trial lawyers who would like to have women on a jury."

"There are men on the Grand Jury and men only on the petit juries. Many a young girl has stood on the threshold of a Grand Jury room crying, 'Oh, I cannot go in there before all those men.'"

Finally Rhoda Fox Graves, the only woman member of the New York Legislature, arose. "This woman jurors bill," said she, "has been here for eleven years. It is a real antique. Perhaps that is why this committee is loathe to part with it."

"That's the best line we've heard up here this year," commented the chairman of the committee. There was laughter—and the bill, as usual, was defeated in committee.

Standing for the passage of this Jury

Service Bill, I once visited Albany with a delegation of ladies, including one of our best-known and most beautiful actresses, to call upon the Governor of the State, who had been friendly to some of our bills. I expected no opposition to what seemed to me a most innocent proposition of a self-sacrificing nature, but to my amazement the man in question met us with intense opposition, the gist of which was that he would not care to have his daughter "locked up all night with a lot of men."

Rather confused, I spoke honestly, "Don't you think you are rather hard on your own sex?" I asked. Then, somehow, the meeting came to an end. We were dismissed without a conclusion.

This long struggle for jury service in New York State has resulted in the building up of a solidarity among women's organizations on this one measure of the Equal Rights program, with the result that no legislative leader who has helped to block the woman jurors bill, year after year, for the past eleven years, would stand the ghost of a chance to be elected to a State office, if his election depended upon the vote of the women of the State who do not appreciate being patted on the back and sent home to be "good little girls."

**I**T IS argued that some women would wish to avoid this responsibility as well as some men, and yet, last winter, many women filled the court merely from a sense of fair play, when the character of an innocent woman was falsely assailed. Members of the National Woman's Party attended such a trial in New York City. The testimony required as a vital point a description of the petticoat worn by the witness. The district attorney questioned the male defendant about the fastening of this petticoat, as to whether it "buttoned" or "tied" around the waist, whereas all the women in the court room knew that no up-to-date woman, such as the witness, had worn a "petticoat" in the last decade. In this case, had women been on the jury, they undoubtedly would have questioned the man's testimony.

Whether or not some women want to accept this responsibility has nothing to do with the question. From all accounts, there are some men who do not want to serve. We have no fear that women will be unwilling to share with men the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, just as they now share every other duty and responsibility of life.

Mrs. Minnie Maddern Fiske, Chairman of the Actresses Council of the National Woman's Party, acting in "Ladies of the Jury," illustrated that one clever woman's insight could change the decision of a jury determined to pronounce the death penalty on an innocent accused.

New York State women are watching with intense interest the outcome of the Genevieve Welosky case in Massachusetts. This is a test case, financed by the Massachusetts Branch of the National Woman's Party to prove a woman's right to serve on a jury.

Mrs. Welosky, convicted of keeping and selling liquor, by a jury composed entirely of men, challenged the jury on the ground that, by reason of the exclusion of women from the jury list, she has been denied the equal protection of the law, contrary to the guaranty contained in the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution, which reads:

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

**I**N 1879 the United States Supreme Court held that under the equal protection of the law section of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution every citizen has a right to a trial by a jury selected without discrimination on the ground of race.

On September 10, 1931, the Massachusetts Supreme Court in a decision in the Welosky case, denied the eligibility of women to serve on juries in that State.

This adverse decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Court has been hailed by the National Woman's Party as offering a most favorable opportunity for carrying the demand for jury service for women to the highest court in the land. It has announced that an appeal to the United States Supreme Court will be taken and it will choose one of its women lawyers to try the case.

The Welosky case will bring before the Supreme Court the question of whether this section does not also guarantee to every citizen a similar right to trial by a jury selected without discrimination on the ground of sex.

The great-great-granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, writing to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, says of Jefferson: "All his granddaughters received by his advice, the same courses in history and read by their brothers. He did not believe in special privilege of any kind." Jefferson himself, in a letter on "trial by jury" states: "Trial by jury is the best of all safeguards for the person, the property and the fame of every individual."

# A Workingwomen in Rhode Island

By Josephine Casey

**A** HEAVY, steady rain. I took a street car to a town, a bus to an outlying section, and then a walk through some woods to get to the mill. As the bus swung along the road, I thought of the women who were selling in the rain—making it from door to door. Soon the freezing weather would come, but the "protectionists" would not be interested in one doing this sort of labor—no tears for this "poor working girl," even if weeks went by without her getting an order.

When I reached the mill, the office girl gave me a broad grin. When the manager saw me he asked, "How did the rain blow you in?" Feminists should never neglect to work the day it rains, the effect is excellent. I remember many years ago when Mrs. Catt spoke before the Republican Party at Chicago while the suffragists marched in the rain. I can still hear those deep tones say, "Out there in the rain marches the daughter of Mark Hanna. Out there marches the descendant of William Lloyd Garrison. Out there marches the grand-daughter of the man who gave the Republican Party its name." It was great. She had the daughter and grand-daughter of almost every noted Republican being drenched for the cause. Senator Lodge showed emotion, and at the time that to me seemed a miracle.

The girls in this mill which I visited were working daytime but they told me they thoroughly disapproved any no-night-work or other law which would place women at a greater disadvantage. The effect of depression is sufficient; when to this a handicap is added because people imagine women can live and eat without work or food, it is very hard on the woman.

I visited another mill at midnight. I spoke to those working on two shifts. They wish to keep the jobs they have and some even prefer night work to day work.

As I went along a road from one mill to another, I got talking to two women going the same way. One was married, the other was a widow. The married one said her husband was a day laborer—work scarce especially as the cold weather approaches. Sometimes when orders are

plentiful she gets work three nights a week in a mill. She prefers the night work because she can get back before the children are awake and can get them off to school. She sleeps while they are learning and in the evening she gives them a good meal. The three nights means supply and comfort and above all less worry. The one who is a widow has two children—she has not worked in five months and if any orders come she wants a chance to work whether it is day or night. She said if she could get even three nights a week it would save her and the children. She gets two dollars a week from the town and feels that with so many to help it is all the town can contribute; but the landlord says she must move or pay. Work is what she wants. She told me she thought of suicide—of drowning as a means of getting rid of the strain. She won't do it for she is naturally well balanced. It was just the way we workers have of telling each other when the load we carry is absolutely the limit.

In a recent editorial in EQUAL RIGHTS the final sentence was "Forward to the Equal Rights Amendment!" Let us work for it so that this will be the last depression when women are treated like aliens in their own country—when under the mask of kindly consideration they are robbed of their jobs.

A mill-girl here kept asking earnestly. "We have to eat, don't we? And how will we eat if we don't work?"

A girl told me that in this mill whenever the forelady has to lay off anyone, she suffers keenly; for she knows how it is. It is a game of "pussy in the corner," and every man and woman who has a corner is trying to hold it; it won't help in the present crisis to tell women they must give up theirs. For example: A boy who had his mother to support married one of the girls in the mill. They have two children, and give a home to a little nephew left an orphan. Then depression came and the boy lost his job and it is hard to find one. The girl found she could get her job back but had to take the night shift. She said, "If night work were

stopped, the children would starve. I can't give them all they want but I can at least give them food."

Another said, "I would rather work than have my mother work. I share with her and am glad to. I don't want night work stopped." One whose husband can get only three days work each week, is working because it is the only way she can feed and clothe her two children decently. One woman who has a child to support said, "I have only one, but he is as good as five when it comes to eating."

All the girls thought abolishing night work was a cruel and stupid way to make adjustment in time of depression.

A woman with white hair with a family of five to support told me she had to beg for her present job. No one wanted to hire her because of her age. The woman in charge of the girls says she is a fine worker, as efficient as any of the younger ones, but at first they hesitated to give her a chance because of her age. Naturally the woman does not want a law passed which will throw her out of work and cause her to make the same old humiliating rounds of job hunting.

There is never space enough in EQUAL RIGHTS to tell the history of every working woman in the battle for an even break. The Industrial Council of the National Woman's Party for Rhode Island was started about ten o'clock last Friday night in the upper floor of a mill. Its challenge to Protectionists who base "protection" on discrimination, is this: We object to cluttering up the pages of legislation with all this false law, aimed against citizens. In the old days some individuals in negative organizations used to say, they had to have lopsided laws because women did not have the vote. Later they said women had to be protected because they could not be organized.

How long is this kidding ourselves to continue? There is nothing of equivalent value you can give a girl for taking away from her a fundamental right. In every legal status or citizenship class, that is the first lesson teacher should learn and pupil be taught.

## News from the Field

### Card Party

**T**HE International Committee of the National Woman's Party is entertaining with a card party at Alva Belmont House, 144 B Street Northeast, on Wednesday, November 18, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and at 8 o'clock in the evening. The International note will be carried out in decorations and prizes. Maud H. Bradbury is chairman of the committee on arrangements for the card party.

### Kent County Organizes

**T**HANKS to the efficiency and interest of Mrs. Fred G. Usilton of Chestertown, Maryland, former president of the Kent county Just Government League, a branch of the Woman's Party is to be organized in Kent County, Maryland. On Thursday, November 5, Mrs. Usilton held a Woman's Party meeting at her home and invited about forty of her friends to hear the speaker, Edith Houghton Hooker.

At the close of the meeting a committee, consisting of former officers of the Just Government League, was appointed to prepare plans for reorganizing as a Woman's Party Branch.

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